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Letter dated 29 August 2002 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to convey the attached report on the international security presence in Kosovo covering the period from 1 to 30 June 2002.

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

02-56004 (E) 030902

Annex

Monthly report to the United Nations on the operations of the Kosovo Force

1. Over the reporting period (1-30 June 2002) there were just over 35,700 troops of the Kosovo Force (KFOR) in theatre.

2. The overall situation in Kosovo during the month of June remained calm and stable. Few incidents of note were reported. The number of attempts to cross the border illegally fell considerably compared with the previous month, and the number of demonstrations fell by almost half.

Security

3. The incidents involving inter-ethnic violence reported across the province in June were minor. On 8 June, one Kosovar Serb was killed in Orahovac in what is believed to be an ethnically motivated incident. One significant incident took place in Mitrovica on 9 June when KFOR and United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) police acted jointly to defuse a dispute between about 100 Kosovar Serbs and 80 Kosovar Albanians over the use of a field.

4. The number of demonstrations in June fell to 66 from the 90 reported in May. The main cause of the protests was the arrest of six former Kosovo Liberation Army (UCK) members, there of whom are members of the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC), for the alleged kidnapping, torture and murder of five members of UCK in 1999. Most of the protests, which took place in Pec, Decane and Dakovica, were small and none were violent.

5. Demonstrations against the opening of the municipal community office in northern Mitrovica continued during the reporting period and involved from 30 to 50 people at a time.

6. The biggest demonstration took place in Pristina on 6 June when 5,000 union members protested against the threat to jobs from increasing privatization.

7. The joint UNMIK/KFOR operation to reduce tension in Mitrovica ended on 15 June, with the result that UNMIK police are now carrying out routine police activities in northern Mitrovica. Nevertheless, arrangements are in place to allow KFOR to intervene quickly to support the UNMIK police if necessary.

8. During the reporting period, KFOR continued to conduct search operations throughout the province, and seized weapons and ammunition on a daily basis. During June 215 assorted weapons, 552 grenades and mines and 33,661 rounds of ammunition were confiscated. Twenty-seven people were arrested for possession of illegal weapons and handed over to UNMIK police.

9. During the reporting period, 923 weapons were destroyed in the weapons destruction programme.

Border/boundary security

10. The number of attempts to cross the border illegally decreased, with 27 incidents reported compared with 77 in May. The majority of incidents took place on the border with Albania. Of those arrested, 80 percent were Albanian, eight were

Kosovar Albanian and one was a national of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.[a]

11. On 15 June, KFOR relocated the gate 1 boundary checkpoint onto the administrative boundary line following an agreement between the Commander of KFOR and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General. That move was intended to prevent traders from evading customs fees.

Cooperation and compliance by the parties

12. The security forces of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia remained in general compliance with the terms of the Military Technical Agreement during the month of June.

13. With regard to KPC, the priority for the Commander of KFOR remains its strict control and supervision, and to that end he has introduced more liaison officers at the regional task group and detachment level.

14. The present rank structure of KPC was defined by UNMIK, KFOR and KPC staff, and is in line with the general KPC structure endorsed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Michael Steiner, on 9 May 2002. The presentation of rank certificates to 48 senior KPC members at a ceremony on 13 June concluded a process started on 31 January when General Ceku proposed ranks, titles and insignias for the different levels of the Corps.

15. Twenty-three cases of non-compliance were registered during June, and included the acting Commander of regional task group 1, who is under investigation for inappropriate use of a weapon. Three senior members of KPC were arrested on suspicion of involvement in kidnapping, torture and murder in 1999.

16. The KFOR/UNMIK working group is continuing to improve the KPC disciplinary code, and aims to make the document practical and relevant to the current security situation in Kosovo.

17. KFOR continues to provide training and courses for KPC units. Training activities will be limited during the holiday period in July.

Cooperation with international organizations

18. KFOR continues to provide daily assistance on request to international organizations and non-governmental organizations operating throughout Kosovo and to provide security assistance in support of UNMIK police operations, particularly in Mitrovica.

19. During the reporting period, KFOR and UNMIK signed a security transition strategy that will lead to KFOR handing over a number of tasks to UNMIK. Those tasks will include providing security for patrimonial sites, manning border crossing points and escorting non-governmental organizations and minority convoys. As a consequence of this agreement, KFOR will be freed from static duties and direct protection while maintaining a commitment to those areas where protection of minorities and border security is required.

[a] Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.

20. Preparations for the elections in October continue. A Joint Election Security Task Force involving KFOR and UNMIK police participants has been established to monitor the security situation in the period running up to the elections.

21. The Commander of KFOR presented diplomas to the 285 graduates of class 19 of the Kosovo Police Service,[b] who graduated on 29 June. The graduates included 17 women and 30 persons from minority groups.

Refugees and displaced/persons[c]

22. The number of minority returns so far in 2002 has reached 874 persons.

Outlook

23. The security situation remains quiet and stable.

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[b] The Kosovo Police Service now has 4,973 officers.

[c] The total number of refugees who have returned to Kosovo since 1999 is 182,444. there remain 201,641 internally displaced persons in Serbia, and 29,658 in Montenegro, and 3,319 refugees in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.